

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

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Contact: Bill Brooks at (432) 729-5200

Marfa Sector Seizes Over \$10 Million In Cocaine

Agents find hidden tank on 18-wheeler

Marfa, Texas – Agents of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection’s Marfa Sector, U.S. Border Patrol seized 320 pounds of cocaine last Friday afternoon. The drugs were seized by Agents of the Marfa Station at the Highway 67 Checkpoint south of Marfa.

Border Patrol agents were notified to be on the look out for a tractor and flatbed trailer by Agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE) in Presidio, Texas. The truck entered the checkpoint being towed by a wrecker about 1 p.m. Friday afternoon. A careful inspection by the agents revealed a false tank within the gas tank on the right side of the 2000 Volvo tractor. After removing the tank, agents discovered 320 pounds of cocaine wrapped in bundles covered in duct tape. The estimated value of the drugs was \$10,241,000.

“The vigilance of our agents along with the cooperation of agents from BICE will result in these kinds of seizures,” said Chief Patrol Agent Simon Garza Jr. “The Marfa Sector has seized almost \$89 million in illicit drugs this fiscal year. That is a lot of drugs kept from the streets of this area as well as the rest of the United States.”

The driver of the tractor-trailer was riding in the wrecker. He is a citizen of Mexico with a valid visa to enter the US. The driver, the drugs and the tractor-trailer were turned over to the Department of Homeland Security’s Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The driver of the wrecker was not charged.

The Border Patrol was transferred from the former INS and became a division of Customs and Border Protection on March 1, 2003. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is a new agency within the Department of Homeland Security’s Border and Transportation Security Directorate.

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PHOTO - Marfa Sector Seizes Over \$10 Million In Cocaine



This tractor-trailer fuel tank was actually a tank within a tank. Border Patrol Agents of the Marfa Sector, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, discovered 320.05 pounds of Cocaine in the false tank last Friday afternoon at the Highway 67 Checkpoint south of Marfa. The drugs were valued at over \$10 million. (CBP Photo)

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